

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-15 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10
/114 W

-----071839Z 105715 /43

P 071803Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3092

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 02477

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, ENRG, CA

SUBJECT: ARCTIC GAS OFFER RE NATIVE CLAIMS

REF: OTTAWA 3949

1. SUMMARY. IN APRIL 5 PRESS CONFERENCE, PM TRUDEAU CLAIMED UNAWARENESS OF CABLE SENT BY AMBASSADOR ENDERS TO DEPARTMENT SEPTEMBER 30, THAT REPORTED ALLEGED ARCTIC GAS CONSORTIUM OFFER ON MACKENZIE VALLEY NATIVE CLAIMS. HE WENT ON TO HYPOTHESIZE THAT EVEN IF SUCH OFFER WERE MADE, GOC WOULD HAVE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SETTLEMENT. IN PARLIAMENT, APRIL 6, DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS (DINA) MINISTER WARREN ALLMAND STATED ARCTIC GAS DENIED MAKING ANY SUCH OFFER AND SAID U.S. EMBASSY CONFIRMED THIS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS CONFERENCE EXCHANGE TEXT FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER, A DIPLOMATIC CABLE, WRITTEN BY AMBASSADOR ENDERS, AND RELEASED TODAY IN A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES, .
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REVEALED THAT THE ARCTIC GAS CONSORTIUM HAS MADE AN OFFER ON NATIVE CLAIMS ALONG THE MACKENZIE VALLEY. CAN YOU FILL US IN ON THIS? IS THIS SOMETHING THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN? IS IT SOMETHING ON WHICH THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONSULTING WITH THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY, OR ANY AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, OR ARE YOU UNAWARE OF THIS?

A. I AM UNAWARE OF THIS. I WOULD BE VERY SURPRISED IF WE WERE IN ANY WAY INVOLVED. I REALLY COULD NOT INFORM YOU ON THAT MATTER.

Q. WELL, IF SUCH AN INITIATIVE WERE TAKEN BY SUCH A COMPANY AFTER IT HAD TALKED TO THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THIS COUNTRY, WOULD IT ENCROACH ON A JURISDICTION THAT IS EXCLUSIVELY A MATTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA?

A. WELL, WHATEVER HAPPENED, THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, OF COURSE, WOULD HAVE TO BE INVOLVED AT SOME STAGE, BECAUSE UNDER TREATIES 9 AND 11, I THINK IT IS, WE HAVE OFFERED THE INDIANS THE CHOICE OF CERTAIN TERRITORIES AS PART OF THEIR TREATY RIGHTS. WE HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL THUS FAR IN GETTING THE INDIANS TO CHOOSE THEIR TERRITORIES. I WOULD BE VERY SURPRISED IF CANADIAN ARCTIC GAS WERE TO SUCCEED WHERE WE HAVEN'T, BUT IF THEY SHOULD PROVE TO BE SUCCESSFUL, GOD BLESS THEM. IF THEY CAN MAKE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE INDIANS, WE WILL COME ALONG AND SAY, "WELL, AT LAST WE ARE ABLE TO DISCHARGE THE TREATY," PROVIDED IT IS NOT DONE AT SOMEONE ELSE'S EXPENSE. IN OTHER WORDS, WE DON'T THINK THE CANADIAN ARCTIC GAS PEOPLE, OR THE AMERICANS, FOR THAT MATTER, SHOULD BE NEGOTIATING SOMETHING WITH THE INDIANS AND SORT OF SAY, "WELL, EVERYTHING IS AGREED, YOU JUST HAVE TO PAY THE SHOT."

HOWEVER, ALL THIS IS RATHER HYPOTHETICAL, AS FAR AS UNCLASSIFIED

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I AM CONCERNED, BECAUSE I HAVE NOT HEARD OF IT AT ALL.
END QUOTE.

3. PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE TEXT FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE.
MISS FLORA MACDONALD: MR. SPEAKER, MY SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION IS FOR THE MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT. IT CONCERNS THE TELEGRAM, WHICH I AM ASSURED IS AUTHENTIC, BY U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF WHICH WAS SENT BY THE U.S. EMBASSY IN OTTAWA TO THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE TELEGRAM DESCRIBED IN SOME DETAIL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR ENDERS AND STAFF AND REPRESENTATIVES OF CANADIAN ARCTIC GAS WITH RESPECT TO AN ARCTIC GAS OFFER TO SETTLE OUTSTANDING NATIVE CLAIMS IN THE MACKENZIE VALLEY, WILL THE MINISTER TELL THE HOUSE WHAT STEPS HE HAS TAKEN SINCE YESTERDAY WHEN THIS MATTER WAS BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO UNITED STATES AUTHCRITIES EITHER THROUGH HIS COLLEAGUE THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OR DIRECTLY, THAT

OUR LAND CLAIMS ARE A MATTER FOR
CANADIANS AND CANADIANS ALONE TO SETTLE?
HON. WARREN ALLMAND: MR SPEAKER, WHEN I LEARNED ABOUT
THIS PARTICULAR STORY YESTERDAY MY FIRST TASK WAS TO
DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS CORRECT. THE INFORMATION
I WAS GIVEN, ALTHOUGH MORE WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE, WAS
THAT IT WAS NOT CORRECT AND THAT NO SUCH OFFER WAS MADE.
I WAS TOLD BEFORE THE QUESTION PERIOD THAT THE U.S.
AMBASSADOR SAID THERE WAS NO SUCH OFFER AS DESCRIBED IN

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THE PRESS STORY.

MACDONALD: A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION, MR. SPEAKER. I
WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE MINISTER TO CHECK WITH THE INDIAN
AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE IN THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS TO FIND OUT WHETHER IT IS AN AUTHENTIC DOCUMENT
AND IN FACT HAS BEEN TABLED THERE. SINCE AS A RESULT OF
THIS TELEGRAM PUT BEFORE A U.S. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE,
THERE ARE NOW A GREAT MANY CANADIANS UNDER THE IMPRESSION
THAT OUR NATIVE LAND CLAIMS ARE BEING WORKED OUT IN
WASHINGTON, WILL THE MINISTER CATEGORICALLY ASSURE THE
HOUSE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE AN ABSOLUTE GUARANTEE
THAT NATIVE LAND CLAIMS WILL NOT BE A PAWN IN THE TRANS-
SHIPMENT OF AMERICAN NATURAL GAS?

ALLMAND: MR. SPEAKER, WHAT I CAN DO IS ASSURE THE HON.
MEMBER, THIS HOUSE AND THE CANADIAN PEOPLE THAT THE LAND

CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS AND ANY SETTLEMENT THAT WILL BE
REACHED WILL BE BETWEEN THE NATIVE PEOPLES AND THE
CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. I HAVE ATTENDED MANY DISCUSSIONS
WITH NATIVE GROUPS ON LAND CLAIMS AND I HAVE NEVER HEARD
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OR SEEN ANY INVOLVEMENT OF AMERICANS AND NO DISCUSSION
OF AN INVOLVEMENT BY THEM. IN THE FIRST PART OF HER
QUESTION THE HON. MEMBER ASKED ME TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE
COMMITTEE IN THE UNITED STATES. I AM CERTAINLY ANXIOUS
TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS AND WILL PURSUE ANY LEAD THAT
IS AVAILABLE, BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER AS A CANADIAN
MINISTER I SHOULD DEAL DIRECTLY WITH AN AMERICAN
CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE. I WILL DISCUSS THAT WITH THE
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. END QUOTE.

4. COMMENT: MEDIA ATTENTION SO FAR HAS BEEN MINIMAL.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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